

Newsletter of the Balloon Federation of America



Issue No. 10  
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2022

# The Quick Release

## BFA Board of Directors October 2022 – October 2023



Back Row: Tony Saxton, Tom Warren, Kent Barnes, Mark West, Jason Jones  
Front Row: Penny Suttle, Pat Cannon, Ron Behrman, Scott McClinton





## *Letter from the President, Pat Cannon*

Another AIBF has come and gone and along with that your BFA Board of Directors held a face-to-face board meeting to discuss where we are headed in the next year. During that meeting, and on the following Sunday's annual general membership meeting, there were four items of great interest to all balloonists, which will be pursued this year.

The first item has been ongoing for the past several years and that is the mandatory rule for all commercial balloonist to have a second class medical if they intend to use their certificate for compensation or hire. This will include passenger carrying, banner carrying and acceptance of fees for the display of balloons such as special shapes. It does not include fees for providing flight instruction, nor does it include money, rooms, fuel, and other items received at festivals or other ballooning events. A more complete explanation of this will be the subject of a full article in *Ballooning Magazine*, look for the magazine to be out just before Thanksgiving.

The FAA has not yet issued a date after which this new rule will be implemented, and we are waiting to hear from our contacts regarding the status. Of course, even once the final rule is published, there will be a compliance time given for the many commercially rated pilot to obtain their medical certificate. We encourage all pilots that will need a medical to start the process now and not wait. The BFA will be implementing a training program that will be shared on the website to cover all aspects of applying for and being issued a medical. This program will be based on the presentation by Dr. Alan Kozarsky at the BFA Convention last spring. Please stay tuned for more information as we have it.

The second item is the study being done by the Safety Risk Management Team, convened last July to study the risk of non-ADS-B balloons operating in Class C airspace. While the results of this study are in the final stage, the results cannot be published yet because all members of the team, including the balloonist members of the team, are still under an NDA. However, we are encouraged that the results will be positive for ballooning, and we will release the final results to you as quickly as we are allowed.

The third item is the drone issue with the big retail merchandizing companies that are lobbying the FAA to change the aircraft right of way rule of FAR 91.113 to allow drones to have the right of way of all other categories of aircraft while operating beyond visual line of sight. Much has been written by me in the past about the serious level of danger and degradation of safety that would be posed to all aircraft and other aviation enterprises operating at altitudes less than 400 feet AGL. By now, most of you have seen photos of these drones and a few of you have seen them fly. They are big, heavy, and fast and have no known ability to see and avoid an aircraft that is not equipped with ADS-B. This list of those who would be affected is long, with balloons as the least maneuverable, at the top of the list, but also includes helicopters, agricultural aircraft, powered parachutes, hang gliders, weight shift control aircraft, gliders and yes, even sky divers.

These other aviation concerns have associations that are concerned about the possibility of being run over by one of these drones. The BFA is partnering with many of these associations in the fight to oppose this rule as it is currently being presented to the FAA. We have been successful to date by letting them know that we are going to fight to force these operators to equip their drones with detect and avoid technology. The effort to stop this rule change will require the involvement of everyone affected by this requested rule change.

Last, the BFA is taking steps to be included in FAR 91.119 (d) (2), which allows powered parachutes and weight shift control aircraft to operate at altitudes of less than 500 AGL. We are meeting with those organization that were successful in making this latest change and we believe that it is time that LTA be included in this rule.

We will need your continues support of our efforts to serve ballooning and ballooning safety and education. It is important to continue to be proactive in government regulation for the sake of the continued growth of our sport and the safety of our pilots, crews and passengers.

Thank you again for your faith in your board of directors and your continued support.

Pat



The BFA held their Annual General Meeting at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Many different awards are presented at this time. Below are the awards presented this year. For more information on the BFA awards and previous winners please follow this link [Awards - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](https://www.bfa.net)

### Shields-Trauger Award

The Shields-Trauger Award is the highest special award given by the Balloon Federation of America and second only to entrance in the Hall of Fame. This award does not have to be awarded annually, however up to three (3) Shields-Trauger awards may be made in the same year. BFA Shields-Trauger Award is for an active member of the BFA for special contribution to Aerostatics.

2022 Recipients are (left) Gordon Schwontkowski and (right) Sam Parks



### President's Award

The BFA President selects a person or organization that made significant contributions to the BFA.

2022 Recipient **Dave Sullivan** (left)



## 2022 Directors Awards

Each year a Regional Director can present a Director's award to a person or organization from their region.

A Director At-Large can choose to give an award to a person or organization from any BFA region.



At-Large Director Mark West Directors Awarded to Jeff "Kong" Shields (posthumous) accepted by brother Scott Shields



At-Large Director Scott McClinton Awarded to Maury Sullivan



Northeast Regional Director, Tony Saxton Awarded to Marie & Bob Dicks



Southeast Regional Director, Tom Warren awarded to Alyssa Sullivan



Great Lakes Region Director Award presented to Derrick Jones

## 2022 Directors Awards continued

Western Regional Director Award  
Bryan Hill



North Central Region Director Award  
TruBank (Iowa)



Southeast Regional Director Award  
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce (Alabama)





# 2022 Regional Crew Persons of the Year

The BFA awards a Crew Person of the Year for each region. The National Crew Person of the Year is chosen from the regional awards. The award is presented recognizing an outstanding crew person who is diligent, reliable, organized, responsible and always puts safety first. Please follow the link for more information.

[National Crew Person Award \(bfa.net\)](http://bfa.net)

Southwest Regional Crew Persons of the Year  
Carol & Curt Dahlquist



Northeast Regional Crew Person of the Year  
Bill Miller



Great Lakes Regional Crew Person of the Year  
Sven Setterdahl



Western Region Crew Person of the Year  
Michael Shane



Southeast Regional Crew Persons of the Year  
Donna & Betty Green

**2022 National Crew Person of the Year**  
**Lonnie Jeanes**  
North Central Region



**2022 AMT 40 Under 40 Maintenance Professional**

award recipient Alyssa Sullivan

**Congratulations Alyssa!!**

Learn more about it here: <https://www.aviationpros.com/.../alyssa-marie-sullivan...>





# Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

Congratulations to Lesley Pritchard, recipient of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award!

This award is given to a pilot who has 50 years of safe flying.

Learn more about the award here: <https://www.faasafety.gov/content/masterpilot/Default.aspx>



  
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